

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Stephen John Stromsky

2010-CR-1232

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP MAN SENTENCED TO 10
YEARS IN PRISON FOR A SERIES OF
ROBBERIES**

Stephen John Stromsky, 36, of 3488 Dauphin Drive N.E., pleaded guilty in Stark County Common Pleas Court to aggravated robbery, two counts of robbery, forgery and misuse of credit cards. The aggravated robbery charge also included a firearm specification.

The evidence indicated that Stromsky was responsible for robberies at the Spee-D-Food in Navarre and the Gold Star Auto Care in Canton. He also robbed an individual in Plain Township. The robberies occurred between July 25 and August 3 in the summer of 2009.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri, said that Stromsky acted alone. Stromsky declared he had a drug problem. Judge Taryn Heath sentenced Stromsky to ten years in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Joshua Michael Dunn

2010-CR-1652

**MASSILLON MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR
YEARS**

Joshua Michael Dunn of Chestnut Avenue N.E., pleaded guilty to felonious assault in the October 25, 2010 incident on Chestnut Avenue. Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn L. Heath sentenced Dunn to four years in prison. Dunn admitted hitting Jay Wilhelm, III, 28, in the head with a baseball bat. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri said the men knew each other and the confrontation was preceded in an argument.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Gonzalee Elijah Jones

2010-CR-1820 (A)

FAMILY DOLLAR ROBBER SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON

Gonzalee Elijah Jones, 18, of Canton, plead guilty to a felony count of aggravated robbery with gun specification. Jones could have faced thirteen years in prison. Court records showed that Jones and two other individuals robbed the Family Dollar Store on Tuscarawas Street in Canton. An accomplice of Jones, Matthew D. Smith, 19, of Canton, plead guilty to a robbery charge and a series of unrelated burglaries and received twelve years in prison. A juvenile by the name of Vernard A. Hall, Jr., 17, who was involved in the robbery, had his case transferred to the adult system.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. William Russell Appis

2010-CR-1821 (B)

HOME INVASION ROBBER GETS FOUR YEARS IN PRISON

William Russell Appis, 18, of Lippert Road N.E., Canton, plead guilty to aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery after county prosecutors agreed to dismiss a gun specification charge.

Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn L. Heath sentenced Appis to four years in prison. She said he could apply for early release after serving eighteen months. Appis's Co-Defendant, Travonce R. Backie, of Gross Avenue N.E., who is awaiting trial on similar charges entered a home in the 1100 block of Harrison Avenue and robbed the occupant of a purse and three hundred dollars according to court documents. The Co-Defendant, Backie, is also charged with firearm specifications.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. William Tyrone Allen

2011-CR-0004 (A)

**CHRISTMAS EVE BURGLAR SENTENCED TO
FOUR YEARS IN PRISON**

William Tyrone Allen, of Hartford Avenue S.E., pleaded guilty to breaking into a Plain Township home on Christmas Eve. Stark County Court of Common Pleas Judge John G. Haas said he would consider early release after Allen served one year in prison. Local police caught Allen and his Co-Defendant, Todd E. Nash, stealing items from a home on 43rd Street N.W. according to court documents. Todd Nash of Westerville is still awaiting trial.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Ryan Gary Jones

2011-CR-0022 (B)

**CANTON MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS
FOR MAKING METHAMPHETAMINES**

Ryan Gary Jones, 24, of Rachel Street N.W., in Canton, plead guilty Wednesday to charges of illegal manufacture of drugs and illegal assembly or possession of chemicals for the manufacture of drugs.

Court documents indicated that Jones was engaged in making methamphetamines in the vicinity of a child in December, 2010. Stark County Common Pleas Judge Lee Sinclair sentenced Jones to four years in prison. A Co-Defendant, Jason A. Dodd, is still awaiting trial on the same charges.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Marvin Perez Williams

2010-CR-1772 (A)

State v. Keith Dale Snodgrass, Jr.

2010-CR-1772 (B)

TWO MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO SHOOTING

Marvin Perez Williams, 27, address unknown, was sentenced to four years in prison with a possibility of early release. Williams pleaded guilty to felonious assault and two counts of having weapons while under disability. Co-Defendant Keith Dale Snodgrass, Jr., 33, address unknown, pleaded guilty to felonious assault and will be sentenced in March.

Williams and Snodgrass were accused of shooting the victim several times in the 2100 block of Penn Place N.E., Massillon.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Russell David Mottice
2010-CR-1719

JUDGE INFORMS EAST CANTON MAN THAT HE MUST GET ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT

Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn L. Heath placed Russell David Mottice on probation for three years. She informed him that as part of the probation he must obtain alcohol and drug treatment. If he violates the rules of his probation, it could result in an eighteen month prison sentence, Judge Heath said. Mottice, 21, of Noble Street, pleaded guilty to vehicular assault. He struck a 24 year old man with his car during the early morning hours of November 3, 2010. The records showed that Mottice and the victim had been drinking and ended up at the victim's house in Louisville. Mottice and the victim then had an argument. "When Mottice left he bumped the victim with his car", said Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri. The victim who was on probation at the time, is now in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jason Allan Dodd

2011-CR-0022 (A)

**CANTON MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN
PRISON**

Jason Allan Dodd, 26, of Canton, plead guilty Wednesday to charges of illegal manufacture of drugs and illegal assembly or possession of chemicals for the manufacture of drugs. Dodd was engaged, according to the court record, in making methamphetamines in the vicinity of a child.

His Co-Defendant, Ryan G. Jones, also of Canton, pleaded guilty to the same charges a week ago and was sentenced to four years in prison, as was Dodd. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero said that the illegal manufacture of drugs continues to be increasing in the county and he will use all necessary avenues to curtail it.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Heather R. Bryan

2010-CR-1361

**JURY CONVICTS ALLIANCE WOMAN FOR
ABUSING INFANT**

Heather Bryan sent to prison for four years.

Heather R. Bryan, 19, of Westwood Court, Alliance, Ohio, was convicted by a jury of abusing her infant. After the verdict and after reviewing a presentence investigation, Judge John G. Haas ordered the woman to four years in prison. He rendered the prison term after weighing the seriousness of the charge and injuries to the child. He stated he would consider early release if Bryan was good while in prison. Medical evidence in the case revealed that the three year old boy had skull and rib fractures.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Lorenzo Lee Burton, Jr.

2010-CR-1855 (B)

State v. Tiffany Joyce Robinson

2010-CR-1855 (C)

TWO MUST TESTIFY AGAINST ALLEGED MURDERER

Lorenzo Lee Burton, Jr. and Tiffany Joyce Robinson, who both list Cleveland, Ohio addresses, were each sentenced to eight years in prison for conspiracy to aggravated robbery with a firearm specification. Each could have faced up to thirteen years in prison, but agreed to testify at the trials of any co-defendants including the alleged shooter, Cortez Everett. If the two testify truthfully against Everett, the prosecutors will not seek indictment against them on charges of complicity to murder.

Everett is charged with killing Dennis B. Robb, 58, of Salem, during a robbery at Skyline Terrace Apartments on December 2, 2010. Everett of Canton has pleaded not guilty to murder, felonious assault, aggravated robbery, tampering with evidence and a weapons charge.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Travonce Rashawn Backie

2010-CR-1821 (A)

JURY CONVICTS HOME INVADER

Man gets thirteen years in prison.

Travonce Rashawn Backie, 22, of Canton, was convicted by a jury of aggravated burglary with a gun specification. The jury found Backie not guilty of aggravated robbery. Judge Taryn L. Heath sentenced Backie to thirteen years in prison for his part in the home invasion. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri argued to the jury that Backie and two other men entered the home on Harrison Avenue on September 20, 2010, and stole a purse and \$300.00 at gunpoint. Defense attorney John Mackey argued that Backie was in another part of Canton at the time of the robbery. The Co-Defendant, William R. Appis, 18, of Canton, pleaded guilty in February, 2011, of aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery and is serving four years in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Robert William Petrone

2010-CR-1481

JURY CONVICTS MAN IN JACKSON TOWNSHIP SHOOTING

A Stark County Jury convicted Robert William Petrone of felonious assault with a gun specification for shooting Kevin Ciptak at a Jackson Township tree farm. The jury did not find him guilty of attempted murder. Petrone, at the trial, testified he shot Ciptak in self-defense on September 19, 2010. Petrone testified that he intended to discuss Ciptak's alleged relationship with Petrone's estranged wife. Stark County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Chryssa Hartnett argued that Petrone's actions did not qualify as self-defense under Ohio Law. The evidence showed that Petrone followed Ciptak, a landscaper, from Cuyahoga Falls to the tree farm on Strausser Street in Jackson Township. Ciptak, during the sentencing phase of the trial, testified that Petrone shot him three times.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Linda Jean Brenneman

2011-CR-0140

State v. Kathy Jean Greenlief

2011-CR-0141

State v. Randy Jay Hoover

2011-CR-0142

State v. Tonia Sue Hoover

2011-CR-0143

GRAND JURY WON'T INDICT

Alleged Illegal Bingo Charges Dismissed

A felony case against four people accused of conducting instant bingo at a local bar without a permit was dismissed by the Stark County Grand Jury. The Ohio Department of Public Safety did an investigation at the R & R Tavern on Mahoning Road and charged Randy Jay Hoover and Tonya Sue Hoover with conducting an illegal bingo game. Also charged, with operating illegal bingo, was Kathy Jean Greenlief and Linda Jean Brenneman. Brenneman was further charged with a misdemeanor charge of violating a state prohibition concerning operation of a skill-based amusement machine. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Frederic R. Scott said he could not discuss any grand jury proceedings, as all proceedings are secret by state law.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Orville Joe Leadingham aka Orville Lee Leadingham

2010-CR-1574

CONVICTED MAN ORDERED TO PAY \$4,400.00 IN RESTITUTION

He will spend ten weekends in jail.

Orville Joe Leadingham aka Orville Lee Leadingham, 56, of 3126 - 25th Street S.E., plead guilty to grand theft in February, 2011. He recently appeared in court for sentencing before Stark County Common Pleas Judge Lee Sinclair who ordered him to spend ten weekends in jail and to pay \$4,400.00 in restitution. He was placed on two years intensive supervised probation and to have no contact with Martin Logistics or its employees.

Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Toni Schnellinger said Leadingham stole more than \$18,000.00 from the Plain Township-based trucking company. He was caught writing unauthorized checks. He wrote checks for his personal use intended for repairs, fuel and other trucking-related expenses. The \$4,400.00 that was ordered was not covered by the company's insurance.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Alana Monroe

2011-CR-0248

WIFE INDICTED FOR HUSBAND'S DEATH

A Stark County Grand Jury has indicted Alana Monroe, 61, of 2812 Baldwin Avenue N.E., Canton, on one count of murder with a firearm specification. The case is assigned to Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn Heath. Authorities say that James Monroe, Alana Monroe's husband, was shot in late January. The police were prompted to the couple's home by their daughter. She was unable to reach her parents and called the police. Upon arrival, the police found James Monroe in bed dead while the wife was unconscious on the kitchen floor.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. William T. Pergins

2010-CR-1271

FORMER ALLIANCE MAN SENTENCED TO 11 YEARS FOR VIDEOING NAKED MINORS

William T. Pergins, 55, pleaded guilty to six counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor which are all felonies. Pergins secretly videoed a member of his household and guests while they were in the bathroom as well as two children who lived near his home. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Katie Chawla represented the state. Recordings were made between 2003 and May 2010 as reflected in the court records. Chawla told the court that this case was different from ordinary pandering cases in that Pergins not only possessed photos and videos of the naked children but also was involved in making them.

Judge John G. Haas sentenced Pergins to eleven years in prison and must register as a sex offender. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero commended Ms. Chawla for her work and stated that it is important that we protect our children from these kinds of sexual predators.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Robert Alexander Buda

2011-CR-0114

MAN SENTENCED FOR CHILD'S DEATH IN 2004

Robert Alexander Buda, already in prison for seven years, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to a six year prison term. Six month old Xavier Mitchell died in February, 2004, after he and his two year old brother were left in Buda's care. The boy's mother left her Canton home after an argument with Buda and ended up jailed in Columbiana County according to Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lori Curd. Curd said that there was evidence of physical abuse, but the injuries weren't severe enough to cause the death. The Stark County Coroner's Office consulted with the Medical Examiner in Summit County and determined that the baby died of asphyxiation. In addition to abusing the body, Buda admitted to wrapping the baby in a blanket and leaving him unattended for a significant period of time, according to Curd. Those facts then raised the question of whether Buda intended to kill the baby or just acted negligently. It was then decided that the proper charge would be manslaughter, according to prosecutors. Defense Attorney Wayne Graham, informed the judge that his client understood the plea to the charge of involuntary manslaughter as opposed to murder and would give up his right to appeal.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Darrell Thomas Parker, II

2010-CR-1534

MAN CONVICTED IN PIT BULL ATTACK

Convicted of not having liability insurance.

A Stark County Jury acquitted Darrell Thomas Parker, II, 23, of Bedford Avenue N.W., Canton, of failure to restrain a vicious dog. He was convicted of not having dog liability insurance. The evidence showed that on September 14, 2010, a pit bull at Parker's house attacked and seriously injured his neighbor, Daniela Sexton. Parker wasn't home at the time of the attack. He lived with two roommates and authorities were unable to determine who owned the dog. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri argued that Parker was guilty because he leased the house and allowed the dog to live therein.

Rick Pitinii, the defense attorney, argued to the jury that this is a civil lawsuit and not a criminal case. Pitinii requested that Judge Heath withhold sentencing to give him time to research the jury's verdict in that it involved different charges with different elements. Heath granted the request. On March 28, 2011, Judge Heath sentenced Parker to 180 days in jail which were suspended, two years good behavior with fifty hours of community service at an animal shelter.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Scott Ko Pence

2011-CR-0037

JACKSON TOWNSHIP DRIVER PLEADS GUILTY IN FATAL HIT-SKIP ACCIDENT

Scott Ko Pence, 22, plead guilty to vehicular homicide, a first-degree misdemeanor and leaving the scene of an accident, a third-degree felony. The crash occurred New Year's Eve. James Jenkins, the pedestrian, who lived in the 6200 block of Lake Cable Avenue was killed. Pence faces up to five years in prison along with a license suspension when he is sentenced by Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn Heath on May 5, 2011. Because factors such as speed and alcohol were not involved, the vehicular homicide charge does not carry a mandatory sentence. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri, when asked if Pence would be eligible for probation, stated, "It's up to the judge".

Pence was northbound on Lake Cable when his Honda Civic struck James Jenkins, 55. Jenkins was walking south with his neighbor's German shepherd dog, police noted. According to Pence, who lives a couple blocks from the crash scene, he was attempting to change music on a portable device when he glanced away from the road. Pence turned himself in to police two days after the crash.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jermaine Dajuan Cunningham

2011-CR-0076

JURY FINDS MAN NOT GUILTY

Defense counsel tells jury there were inconsistencies in the testimony.

A Stark County Jury acquitted Jermaine Dajuan Cunningham of one count of aggravated robbery. The woman who lives in the 600 block of Alan Page Drive S.E., Canton, was the only alleged victim to testify. She testified that the defendant, Cunningham, was a friend who frequently spent time at her house. On September 14, 2010, while at her home, he pulled a gun on her and another woman and ordered them to strip naked in a bedroom. He then made them lie on the floor and closed the door. Later the victim found her television, XBOX video game and some games missing. A friend of the woman told the jury that she saw Cunningham outside the apartment building and that two other men were carrying items to the car. The men could not be identified. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri argued that there was enough evidence to support a conviction. Defense Attorney Wayne Graham stated there were inconsistencies in the testimony and that the alleged victim and her friend were unreliable witnesses.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Peter Sammuel Mallcheck

2010-CR-0605(B)

MAN SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON

Peter Sammuel Mallcheck, 27, plead guilty in Stark County Common Pleas Court to an amended charge of aggravated assault, a fourth-degree felony. Mallcheck originally was charged with felonious assault. After reviewing the evidence on the case, prosecutors dismissed the attempted murder charge. Mallcheck and his co-defendant, Jesse Bailey, 28, of Massillon attacked 25 year old Justin Amos at the Tiki Bar in Massillon on May 2, 2010. Mallcheck and Bailey, according to investigators, believe that Amos was responsible for the April 26, 2010, shooting death of their friend Maurice Williams, 29, of Massillon. Amos was believed not to be involved in Williams' death according to the investigators. The co-defendant, Bailey, was sentenced to four years in prison in January, 2011.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Heather Marie Snyder

2010-CR-1855(D)

THIRD PERSON GUILTY IN FATAL SHOOTING

Heather Marie Snyder, 24, of 6249 Mottice Drive S.E., in Sandy Township, pleaded guilty to obstructing justice and complicity to aggravated robbery with a firearm specification. She was sentenced to nine years in prison. Snyder is implicated in the robbery and fatal shooting of a Salem residence. She is not required to testify in the case of the shooter, Cortes Everett, 24, of Harrison Avenue N.W., Canton. Everett is charged with felonious assault, aggravated robbery, tampering with evidence and a weapons charge. Everett is accused of shooting 58 year old Dennis B. Robb on December 2, 2010, during a robbery at the Skyline Terrace Apartments. Chief of the Criminal Division, Dennis Barr, declined to discuss Snyder's role in the robbery except that the obstructing charge was based on untrue statements given by her to investigators. Patrick Cusma, the attorney for Snyder, said she was at a Canton bar with the victim, Everett and two other defendants when she invited the victim to the apartment complex. Snyder contends she did not know anyone was going to use a gun to steal from Robb. The other co-defendants, Lorenzo L. Burton and Tiffany J. Robinson, have plead guilty to their roles in the robbery and agreed to cooperate with authorities.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Mark Allan McHenry

2011-CR-0095

SEX OFFENDER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SEVEN YEARS

Mark Allan McHenry will spend the next seven years in prison on four counts of rape and two counts of gross sexual imposition. McHenry sexually abused two young girls, of which one was a relative and another a family acquaintance. The acts occurred over a course of several years, said Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lisa Turoso. Turoso also said that the abuse happened on multiple occasions at several addresses in Canton and Guernsey County. The mother of one of the victims indicated she felt McHenry should spend more time in prison but refused to let her daughter testify at the trial. The victims and the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney agreed to the seven year sentence in lieu of the daughter having to testify at trial.

McHenry was previously convicted of sex offenses and was most recently incarcerated at the Belmont Correctional Institution as a sex offender. He is now required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. William Leroy Alexander, Jr.

2010-CR-1397

MAN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY

Judge sentences him to five years in prison.

William James Alexander, Jr., 21, of Rex Avenue N.E., Canton, appeared in court for sentencing by Stark County Common Pleas Judge Frank Forchione. Alexander was convicted a week ago in his second trial on a robbery charge. A jury found him guilty of attacking a forty six year old woman and stealing \$30.00 from her on August 31, 2010.

Defense attorney Anthony Koukoutas asked the judge to take his client's age into consideration, as well as the fact that Alexander became a father while he was jailed awaiting trial. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Joseph Vance countered that Alexander had a criminal record. He served a year in prison for failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer and suggested that the sentence be at the higher end of the two to eight year prison term. The first trial ended with a hung jury.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Anthony James Raunika

2011-CR-0073(A)

**MASSILLON MAN SENTENCED TO
TWO YEARS IN PRISON
FOR MAKING METHAMPHETAMINES**

Anthony James Raunika, 29, of First Street N.E., Massillon, was sentenced to two years in prison by Stark County Common Pleas Judge Frank Forchione. Raunika plead guilty to complicity to the illegal assembly or possession of chemicals used in making methamphetamines. Related charges are also pending against three other individuals who are living at the same address as Raunika.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Ryan Michael Sales
2011-CR-0061(A)

**HOME INVASION ROBBERY LANDS CANTON
MAN THIRTEEN YEARS IN PRISON**

Ryan Michael Sales, 19, of Harmont Avenue N.E., Canton, plead guilty Wednesday to aggravated burglary, aggravated robbery and felonious assault. His brother was previously sentenced in the same home invasion. Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge John G. Haas sentenced Ryan to thirteen years in prison. Ryan and his brother, Mackenzie A. Sales, used a BB gun to rob the victim because the victim owed them money in exchange for a pit-bull puppy. Mackenzie Sales, 20, who previously plead guilty to aggravated burglary and aggravated robbery was sentenced to twelve years in prison. Ryan Sales' felonious assault charge was a result of a separate incident on January 3, 2011, when he stabbed a man four times with a knife during a fight, according to court papers.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Cortes Everett

2010-CR-1855(A)

EVERETT CONVICTED OF MURDER AND OTHER CHARGES

Cortes Everett was convicted of murder with a firearm specification, felonious assault with a firearm specification, aggravated robbery with a firearm specification, having weapons while under disability and tampering with evidence in the attempted robbery and fatal shooting of 58 year old Dennis Robb of Salem. The jury returned the verdict on April 14, 2011. Stark County Common Pleas Judge Lee Sinclair immediately sentenced Everett to life in prison. He won't be eligible for parole for 38 years. Dennis Barr, Chief of the Criminal Division of Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero's Office, said he was pleased with the jury's attentiveness and the verdict. Everett's co-defendants testified about being at the same bar with Robb and thereafter meeting with him at the apartment. They said Everett pulled a gun on Robb during the robbery and the gun went off when Everett pistol-whipped the victim.

Part of the evidence presented by Barr was a video of Everett's interrogation by the Canton Police in which he denied robbing the victim. But, admitted that the gun went off while he was pistol-whipping Robb. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero stated he was pleased with the verdict and the excellent work his Chief Criminal Assistant performed.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Nicholas Lewis Smith

2010-CR-1625

MASSILLON MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN TRAFFIC DEATH OF HIS COUSIN

Nicholas Lewis Smith, 21, plead guilty this morning in Stark County Common Pleas Court to aggravated vehicular homicide, a third-degree felony and vehicular homicide, a first-degree misdemeanor. Judge Taryn Heath will sentence Smith at a later date. Zerrick Smith, Nicholas Smith's cousin died from injuries in the one-car crash that occurred on August 11, 2010. Nicholas Smith's Ford Mustang was travelling at a high rate of speed when he lost control.

Nicholas Smith was sentenced to three years community control sanctions. Special conditions to his probation are obtaining full-time employment, serving 200 hours community service, submitting to alcohol and drug assessments, abstaining from alcohol and drugs and any establishment which sells alcohol as its primary business, submitting drug and alcohol testing and participate in the Victim Awareness Program. His license is also suspended for a period of fifteen years.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Lance Brooks Richardson

2011-CR-0365

**STARK COUNTY GRAND JURY DOES NOT
INDICT ALLIANCE MAN**

Stark County Grand Jury returned a No Bill against Lance Brooks Richardson of Alliance. He was jailed for complicity to commit felonious assault.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Bradley Ray Thomas Mount

2010-CR-1421 (A)

MOUNT GUILTY IN 2009 MURDER

Sentenced to life in prison

It took authorities more than a year to charge Bradley Ray Thomas Mount with the murder of Sean Duggan. Mount has pled guilty to aggravated murder, aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary. In exchange for the plea agreement, gun specifications were dismissed. Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Taryn L. Heath sentenced Mount to life in prison with the possibility of parole after twenty-five years. Mount will be fifty years old when he is eligible for parole.

The plea agreement halted all further court appeals and actions by Mount. His prison sentence is final. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Frederic Scott said Duggan was shot in the right hip and fatally in the back of the head. Scott said the police did an excellent job in investigating and pursuing Duggan and Crystal Clapper, his accomplice. Mount gave a statement to investigators where he confessed to his involvement in the robbery after the plea agreement was signed.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Cameron Covington

SUSPECT RULED INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL

Visiting Judge Robert D. Rinfret of Holmes County found Cameron Covington, 18, incompetent to stand trial. That means he is not capable of understanding the charges against him and assisting in the defense of his case. Covington was charged in the September shooting at the home of Navarre Attorney Robert Shedlarz. The public defender's office filed a motion to ask the judge to dismiss the case after he ruled that Covington was incompetent to stand trial. Chief Juvenile Prosecuting Attorney Michelle Cordova said she will file a response to the motion.

Covington was accused of shooting 41-year old Vincent Tyler at the Shedlarz' residence, according to Navarre Police.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Alana Monroe

2011-CR-0248

**ALANA MONROE JUDGED COMPETENT
TO STAND TRIAL**

Alana Monroe is accused of killing her husband at their home. Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn Heath agreed with the psychological evaluation that Monroe is able to understand the court proceedings and assist in her defense. Defense Attorney Ken Frame indicated to the judge that he would file a motion of not guilty by reason of insanity. The couple's daughter requested the police to check on her parents because she was not able to contact them.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jermaine Antonio Turner

2011-CR-0053

**CANTON MAN WILL SPEND
12½ YEARS IN PRISON**

Stark County Common Pleas Jury convicted Jermaine Antonio Turner, 22, of Canton, on charges of kidnapping, felonious assault and disrupting public service. The jury acquitted Turner of a rape charge. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer Dave argued that Turner and the woman had an argument that turned physical. Turner beat, kicked and choked the woman, breaking bones in her face and opening cuts that required stitches.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Tony Dean Gill

2011-CR-0396

NIMISHILLEN MAN GUILTY OF PHONING IN BOMB THREAT

Tony Dean Gill phoned in a bomb threat to Stark State College so his girlfriend could avoid class. Investigators failed to find any bomb and Gill later told investigators that the call was false.

He pled guilty to inducing panic, a second-degree felony with possible prison time up to eight years. Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Lee Sinclair sentenced Gill to two years in prison. Gill was not a student at Stark State but his girlfriend was. She was not aware of Gill's action. Jackson Township Police Department's investigation showed surveillance camera footage and Gill's fingerprints on a payphone from a store in the 3200 block of Mahoning Road N.E., in Canton. Gill's defense attorney said Gill had a tough life and he made a mistake and he didn't want to hurt anybody.

Scott Gainer of Mahoning Road N.E., was aware what Gill did, but did not report it to authorities. Gainer received a suspended jail sentence.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Samuel Lee Freeman

2010-CR-0736

REPEAT RAPIST GUILTY IN STARK COUNTY COURT

Samuel Lee Freeman is serving a prison term in New Jersey for a similar sexual attack. In Stark County, he attacked and punched a woman dragging her into an alley and raping her. The incident occurred March 7, 2007. Freeman pled guilty to rape, kidnapping and other related charges. Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Taryn Heath sentenced him to eighteen years in prison. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Toni Schnellinger said Freeman will be 86-years old when he is released on the Ohio charges. This is his 3rd sex offense. Freeman was caught as a result of the DNA which linked him to the Ohio case. Other charges against Freeman were dismissed in lieu of him pleading guilty.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jessie Aaron Pruitt

2011-CR-0448

MAN GOING TO PRISON FOR 4 YEARS

Jessie Aaron Pruitt, 23, of 530 Sixth Street S.W., Massillon, was sentenced to four years in prison by Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Lee Sinclair. He pled guilty to aggravated robbery with a firearm specification, carrying concealed weapons and possession of cocaine. He attempted to leave the K-Mart on Harmont Avenue N.E., in Plain Township, without paying for two items. He told the security guard when he was stopped that he had a gun. Pruitt never exhibited the gun. He was then detained until the sheriff deputies arrived.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Charles Anthony White

2011-CR-0252

**MASSILLON MAN SENTENCED
TO 4 YEARS IN PRISON**

Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge John G. Haas sentenced Charles Anthony White, 25, of 831 First Street N.E., to four years in prison. White pled guilty to aggravated burglary, receiving stolen property, weapons charges and misdemeanor domestic violence. According to the court record, White entered the home of his child's mother and struck her multiple times and choked her. Police arrested him when they responded to a report that White had threatened to kill himself in front of the woman's home.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jeremy Danta Pleasant

2011-CR-0178(A)

REVENGE SHOOTING DRAWS 7 YEARS IN PRISON

Jeremy Danta Pleasant was sentenced to seven years in prison for the shooting of 29-year old Lonnie Richardson of Canton. Pleasant pled guilty to two counts of felonious assault with firearm specifications. The attempted murder charge was dismissed in lieu of the plea. Lonnie Richardson had been acquitted by a Stark County Jury of his involvement in the home-invasion robbery and the shooting of Pleasant's daughter and her uncle. Richardson had been accused of being the shooter's accomplice.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. John Lawrence McCallister

2011-CR-0322

BANK ROBBER PLEADS GUILTY

John Lawrence McCallister of Alliance pled guilty to robbing the FirstMerit Bank at 3100 Atlantic Boulevard in Canton. He was sentenced to two years in prison. McCallister passed a teller a note to a teller demanding money without dye packs or alarms.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Alex M. Mull

2011-CR-0605

ALLIANCE MAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON

Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank Forchione sentenced Alex M. Mull, 20, of Alliance to a year in prison in conjunction with a vandalism spree charge and an additional four years for violating probation on a 2010 burglary conviction. Mull pled guilty to three counts of vandalism, all felonies and a single count of criminal mischief. Mull and his co-defendants were charged with vandalizing Shaffer's Diner, the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority bus station in Alliance, the Alliance Senior Center, Alliance Lock and Key, Pick-A-Part, Reese Body Shop, Whiteway Cleaners, Brittain's Auto and Blair's Auto and others.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Johnathan Michael Jenkins

2011-CR-0494

\$20 ROBBERY EQUALS 1 YEAR IN JAIL

Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Taryn L. Heath sentenced Johnathan Michael Jenkins, 23, to one year in jail. Jenkins robbed a woman of \$20.00 by forcing her against her car, while holding what appeared to be a weapon according to the court record. The robbery occurred at the 3000 block of Tuscarawas Street West. No weapon was found and as a result the charge was changed from aggravated robbery to robbery according to Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Lewis Guarnieri.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Rodrick Acel Midgett

2011-CR-0050

ROBBER RINGS IN NEW YEAR PRISON SENTENCE

Rodrick Acel Midgett rang in the 2011 New Year with a robbery and as a result thereof is going to prison for three years. During the early morning hours of New Year's Day, he robbed two men on Cleveland Avenue. He pled guilty Tuesday to two counts of robbery. He was sentenced by Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank Forchione.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Darrin Michael Newman, Jr.

2011-CR-0476(A)

Massillon Man Sentenced to Prison

Darrin Michael Newman, Jr., 20, of 1332 Johnson Avenue S.E., pled guilty to aggravated robbery and felonious assault before Stark County Common Pleas Judge Charles Brown. Newman will serve six years in prison. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Hope Konovsky said that the firearm charges were merged. They were part of the same felonies and as required by law, must be merged.

Newman robbed a 26-year-old male of cash during the early morning hours of March 27, 2011. The crime took place in the 700 block of 11th Street S.E. in Massillon. According to the police report, Newman was armed with a stolen handgun and during the robbery a struggle ensued and the gun discharged. The gun was reported stolen from the Columbus area.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. William Henry Barker

2011-CR-0234(C)

**ALLIANCE MAN SENTENCED TO 4 YEARS
FOR MAKING METH**

Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge John G. Haas sentenced William Henry Barker to four years in prison for the manufacture of methamphetamines. Barker and his two co-defendants were cooking meth in a house on Arch Avenue in Alliance when the house caught fire. The co-defendants, Fred E. Moore and Michael Moore, are serving time in prison.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Nelson Malone White, III

2011-CR-0684

NELSON WHITE, III, SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS IN PRISON

Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge John G. Haas sentenced Nelson Malone White, III, 25, to three years in prison for obstructing justice. The charge stems from a shooting in the parking lot of Walther's Café. White pled guilty and agreed to testify truthfully at the trial of his co-defendant Jeremy D. Pleasant. In return for his cooperation, county prosecutors agreed to dismiss complicity to attempted murder against him. White later refused to cooperate. Pleasant eventually pled guilty to two counts of felonious assault and was sentenced to prison. White's failure to cooperate hindered the case against Pleasant. White told Judge Haas that he plans to go to college and the only reason he pled guilty was because he was told he would be put on probation. Haas disputed White's claim.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Brian Keith Peterson, Sr.

2011-CR-0476(B)

Accomplice in Massillon Shooting Sentenced to 3 Years in Prison

The accomplice of Darrin Michael Newman, Jr., 20, was sentenced to 3 years in prison after pleading guilty to felony charges of complicity to aggravated robbery and complicity to felonious assault. In March, 2011, Brian Keith Peterson, Sr., 42, and Newman, attacked and robbed a 26-year-old man on the Southeast side of Massillon. Peterson allegedly punched the man's girlfriend in the head when she attempted to come to the aid of the victim. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Hope Konovsky stated the robbery resulted from an apparent marijuana deal.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Michael Adam Young

State v. Brian D. Kemp

2011-CR-0418(A&B)

Two Men Sentenced to Prison for Stealing Steel Molds

Michael Adam Young, 29, of Mapleford Street S.W. and his accomplice Brian D. Kemp, 39, of Mollane Street N.W. each received 18-month prison sentence for grand theft for stealing several steel molds from Lindsay Concrete Products on Erie Avenue N.W. They each must pay \$2,500 in restitution which amounts to the victim's insurance deductible. According to the Lawrence Township Police report, an employee of the company found some of the items at a recycling center. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Chryssa Hartnett told the court that the value of the product was \$29,000.00 which was covered by the company's insurance.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Anthony Michael Hartsoe

2010-CR-1900

Alliance Man Acquitted by Jury

A Stark County Jury acquitted Anthony Michael Hartsoe of attempted murder and felonious assault both with gun specifications. According to the assistant county prosecutor, Hartsoe shot 30-year-old Kenneth Scott, on December 12, 2010. Scott survived but is paralyzed below the waist. Hartsoe, 26, of 1051 South Seneca Avenue, denied the charges and contended he was in another part of the city having a sexual encounter with two woman at the time of the shooting. The victim and Hartsoe had a history of disputes over a woman and Hartsoe had previously been convicted of threatening to kill Scott and Scott's daughter. Hartsoe's attorney, Wayne Graham, said the victim obviously hates Hartsoe now and he hated him before the shooting. Graham also pointed out during the trial differing descriptions of the shooters clothes, lack of forensic evidence, linking Hartsoe to the crime and the presence of medical records showing that Scott had a blood alcohol of double the legal limit for driving. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Toni Schnellinger said she disagreed with the jury verdict, but respected their opinion.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. John William Fether

2011-CR-0129

Jury Convicts Man of Sex Crimes

Judge imposes maximum prison sentence.

John William Fether, 61, of Canton Township, was convicted of rape. The maximum prison term stemmed from the fact that the defendant raped a developmentally disabled adult relative.

According to testimony at the trial, Fether was caught in bed with the victim. Fether's conviction was supported by testimony and DNA evidence. He was acquitted by the jury of charges that he had sex with the victim several years ago. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Chryssa Hartnett spoke on behalf of the victim along with the victim's mother. In addition, Fether will have to register as a sex offender for life.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. James Leroy Pritchett

2011-CR-0298

Drunk Driver Sentenced to Prison for 2 Years.

James Leroy Pritchett, of Swallen Avenue N.E. in Nimishillen Township, pled guilty to aggravated vehicular assault, a felony, and a misdemeanor count of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or a combination of them. Pritchett tested three times the legal limit at the time of the crash. Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Charles E. Brown, Jr., sentenced Pritchett to the mandatory 2 year prison term, suspended his license for 6 years and ordered him to pay \$37,000.00 in restitution for the victim's medical bills. Pritchett hit a vehicle driven by Mindy Oberlin of Louisville when he tried to pass another vehicle. Oberlin suffered injuries including a fractured ankle and wrist. At the time of the crash Pritchett had a blood alcohol level of 0.24 percent.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Danny William Frame

2011-CR-0266

Tavern Owner Pleads Guilty to Gambling Charge

Probation Granted

Danny William Frame, 55, pled guilty in Stark County Common Pleas Court to operating a gambling house, a fifth-degree felony. Investigators with the Ohio Department of Public Safety said they found an electronic video slot machine and illegal instant bingo tickets at Frames Tavern at 1600 Bryan Avenue S.W. Frame was convicted in 1999 and in 2006 of misdemeanor counts of operating a gambling house, court records showed. Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge Frank Forchione sentenced Frame to three years probation including one year of intensive supervision. He must also pay a one thousand dollar fine.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jacqueline Rae Stout

2011-CR-0263

Mother Admits to Drugging Children

Jacqueline Rae Stout, 24, with a history of mental illness, tried to harm her children by putting drugs in their chocolate milk and Kool-Aid. Before Stout pled guilty to felony charges, the assistant county prosecutor and the defense counsel agreed to a competency and sanity evaluation of the defendant. Defense Attorney Wayne Graham said Stout tried to kill herself by overdosing and wasn't in her right mind when she made inaccurate statements about what she did to the children.

Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn L. Heath, placed Stout on three years probation, including a year of intensive supervision and ordered her to complete treatment at the Stark Regional Community Center. Assistant Stark County Prosecuting Attorney Chryssa Hartnett said the defendant's statements were contradictory and described more severe action than what the physical evidence showed.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Jeremy Mathew Downey

2011-CR-0023

Motorcyclist Sentenced to 4 Years in Prison

Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn L. Heath sentenced Jeremy Mathew Downey, 20, of Harrison Avenue to four years in prison and suspended his driver's license for ten years. Downey, who as a result of the accident, had a paralyzed right arm at the time of the hearing. He apologized to his friend Karyssa Kestranek, 17, for the injuries she incurred. Downey pled guilty to aggravated vehicular assault and vehicular assault, both felonies, and misdemeanor counts of operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or combination of them and driving under suspension.

Kestranek, a GlenOak High School student, was riding on the back of a 1993 Yamaha motorcycle driven by Downey and traveling West on Everhard Road N.W. Downey veered onto the oncoming lane to pass another vehicle. As he did, a 1996 Ford Windstar turned left on to Stratmoor Drive. The motorcycle struck the van throwing Downey and Kerstranek. Both were severely injured. Downey had a blood alcohol level of 0.111. The legal limit for a person under 21 years is 0.01. He also had cocaine and prescription medication in his system at the time of the crash. According to his lawyer, Downey is paralyzed on his right side.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Matthew L. Miller

2011-CR-0532

Man Could Serve Ten Years if He Violates Probation

Stark County Common Pleas Judge Taryn L. Heath ordered probation for Matthew L. Miller, 25, who faced ten years in prison for failure to follow probation rules. Miller, from Washington Township was ordered into counseling and treatment for having numerous illegal drugs and access to guns. The judge further ordered him to the Stark County Regional Community Correction Center followed with three years probation. He pled guilty to six drug-related possession charges and having weapons while under disability.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Betty Jean Dexter

2011-CR-0589

Malvern Woman Pleads Guilty to Fraud

Betty Jean Dexter also known as Betty Jean Offenberger, allegedly deprived a 95-year-old blind man of money while working as his housekeeper. Investigators alleged she wrote checks from his account in excess of the agreed amount of payment. In the case of one transaction, she was suppose to write a \$100.00 check and allegedly wrote the check for \$600.00.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. Edward Lee Lang, III

2006-CR-1824(A)

DOUBLE MURDERER'S CONVICTION UPHELD BY THE OHIO SUPREME COURT

Testimony as presented at the trial indicated that Edward Lee Lang, III, and another man, Antonio M. Walker, plotted to rob Jaron N. Burditte and Marnell M. Cheek, during a drug deal in October, 2006. Burditte and his girlfriend Cheek were each shot in the head while sitting in Burditte's automobile. Lang, 19 at the time of the shooting, was convicted of Cheek's murder and given the death penalty. Antonio Walker cooperated with the prosecutors and was sentenced to eighteen years to life in prison. The Ohio Supreme Court unanimously upheld the death penalty against Lang. The Ohio Public Defender's Office argued that Lang's life should be spared because of his troubled childhood, his history of mental illness and the ineffectiveness of Lang's appointed attorney.

NEWS RELEASE

John D. Ferrero

Stark County Prosecuting Attorney

State v. James Mammone, III

2009-CR-0859

Convicted Triple Murderer Mammone Won't Get a New Trial

Stark County Common Pleas Judge John G. Haas denied convicted killer James Mammone, III's, request for a new trial. Mammone has been on death row since last year. He is convicted of killing his two young children and former mother-in-law. The attorneys for the Ohio Public Defender argued that Mammone deserved a new trial. The attorneys contended, Mammone was not examined by a neuropsychologist and his trial attorneys did not question the jurors properly during jury selection. The new attorneys also alleged that the jurors prayed before deliberation. The prosecutors were also accused of withholding drug testing evidence. Stark County Prosecuting John D. Ferrero's assistant prosecutors strongly objected to the motion. The judge ruled that Mammone's constitutional rights were not violated. Stark County Prosecuting Attorney John D. Ferrero stated after the ruling that he was satisfied with the judge's order.